B. T. l. 375

REASONS

HUMBLY ſubmitted to the Conſideration of the Honourable Houſe of Commons, why the BILL, as it now ſtands altered by the Committee, for building the Bridge over the River *Severn*, at *Maiſmore* in the County of *Glouceſter*, for repairing and making commodious *Over's* Cauſeway, and other the Purpoſes therein mentioned, ſhould not paſs into a Law.

As to *Maiſmore* Bridge.

BECAUSE this Bridge was about 70 Years ago a Wooden Bridge for Horſe and Foot only.

THAT for the Accommodation of the Public, the Inhabitants of *Maiſmore*, jointly with the County, agreed to have the ſaid Bridge converted into a Brick Bridge for Waggons and Carriages—that it has been enjoyed as ſuch by the Public ever ſince its Erection till lately carried away.

THAT the Lord of the Manor of *Maiſmore*, and Inhabitants thereof, moreover gave and granted for Three Lives a Parcel of Meadow Ground of the Yearly Value of 25*l.* for keeping the Bridge and Cauſeway adjoining in Repair:—The Bridge was accordingly built with Brick, and alſo the Cauſeway made for Carriages.

THAT near 50 Years ago a Turnpike Act paſſed for repairing the Road a-croſs which this Bridge ſtood, and has been twice renewed.

IN the two former Acts, the Inhabitants of *Maiſmore* were totally exempted from Tolls; but in the laſt Renewal, they were only exempted for Seven Years, but for what Reaſon, cannot conceive; eſpecially as the Commiſſioners took to the ſaid Meadow Ground, received near 120*l.* Arrears of Rent; and alſo have ſince received upwards of 6 Years Rent, and are now in Poſſeſſion.

BECAUSE the County of *Glouceſter* having been accommodated for ſo many Years, they now ought to take upon them the Burthen of building this Bridge ſo appropriated to their Uſe as aforeſaid, agreeable to a Caſe determined a few Years ſince in the Court of *King's Bench*—The King againſt the Weſt Riding of *York*.

BECAUSE, by this Bill, the Inhabitants of *Maiſmore* will be not only burdened with a heavy Tax at their very Doors, but compelled to demiſe and let the ſaid Meadow Ground for the beſt Price that can be got for the ſame, and pay the neat Rents annually to the Truſtees under this Act, to be applied by them towards building and for *ever* keeping in Repair *Maiſmore* Bridge; and yet not be exempt from Tolls for paſſing the ſame.

As

As to *Weſtgate* Bridge and *Over*'s Cauſeway.

BECAUSE the Petition for the Bill ſets forth there was no Fund for repairing the *Weſtgate* Bridge and *Over*'s Cauſeway, except a ſmall Donation of 5*l.* per Annum, when it appears by an Indenture Tripartite dated 11th *January*, 31ſt *Henry* VIIIth, Dame *Johan Coke*, Widow, granted to the Mayor and Burgeſſes of *Glouceſter*, not only the ſaid 5*l.* per Annum, but alſo the Yearly Rents, Revenues and Profits of ſundry Eſtates at *Stonehouſe*, *Ebley*, *Oxlinch*, *Standiſh*, *Weſtbury* and *Chaxhill* in the County of *Glouceſter*, (which are of the annual Value of about 400*l.*) for the expreſs Purpoſe of repairing the ſaid Weſt Bridge and Cauſeway. *Not admitted*

BECAUSE, by the firſt printed Bill, fol. 18, the Mayor and Burgeſſes were to have been impowered to raiſe, widen and repair *Over*'s Cauſeway, and fol. 29, to demand a Toll for their own Uſe and Benefit per Ton for all Veſſels that ſhould paſs under the *Weſtgate* Bridge, according to their reſpective Burthen of Tonnage, which would have been a total Exoneration of their ſaid Eſtates; but their attempting to raiſe a Toll on a free Navigable River for their private Emolument, having ſounded the Alarm, they found themſelves under the Neceſſity of ſhifting their Ground, yet ſtill keeping the ſame beneficial Idea in View, that of laying the *Onus* on the Public, and flatter themſelves, that this Houſe will compel the Turnpikes to which this Cauſeway leads to raiſe the Sum of 1200*l.* on the Credit of their own Tolls, to be laid out in widening and repairing this Cauſeway, in Exoneration of the ſaid Eſtates ſo granted to the ſaid Corporation for that very Purpoſe.

SOME of their own Body have declared, that within Forty Years they have laid out on this Cauſeway upwards of 900*l.* but in that Period, they have, or ought to have received, by the Rents and Revenues of the ſaid Eſtates, near 16000*l.* had the ſame not been granted out on beneficial Leaſes to the Members of their own Body.

THAT after many Applications, the Corporation of *Glouceſter* produced the Deed of the Eleventh of January, 31ſt *Henry* VIII, when it was diſcovered that the above Eſtates, over and above the ſaid 5*l.* per Annum were granted them for the expreſs Purpoſe of repairing the Weſt Bridge and Cauſeway; but this Diſcovery being made, they have refuſed to produce the Charter, or any of the Books of Accompts, although the Tolls granted by their Charter, are in Conſideration of the Expences they were at Day by Day, in repairing the Weſt Bridge and Cauſeway, and other Places therein mentioned. *denied*

BECAUSE they do not attempt ſhewing this honourable Houſe, that their Eſtates, and the Tolls under their Charter, are inadequate to the great Expences they are at in repairing the ſaid Weſt Bridge and Cauſeway, or deſire the Aid and Aſſiſtance of this Houſe to enable them to compleat the ſame, but roundly deſire the Aſſiſtance of this Houſe to burthen the Public,

Public, or in other Terms, the Tolls of the Turnpikes granted under former Acts, with large Sums of Money to do what they have moſt ample Funds for (were they properly applied) to the total Exoneration of thoſe Funds; and therefore it is humbly conceived, this honourable Houſe will not grant ſuch Powers, until the Corporation of *Glouceſter* have given a fair and honeſt Account, what Eſtates they are entitled unto for this particular Purpoſe, of what real annual Value the ſame have been, and now are let at to the ſeveral Tertenants thereof, and how thoſe Rents have been from Time to Time applied, and alſo the annual Amount of the Tolls they are entitled unto under their Charter, and the Application alſo of them.

As to Paving, &c. the Streets of the City of *Glouceſter*.

BECAUSE the Surveyors under this Bill are to pave the Streets, and a Rate is to be made on the Inhabitants to repay them: Whereas the Charter of the 24th *Car.* II. and Tolls therein expreſſed, were granted to the Mayor and Burgeſſes of *Glouceſter*, in Conſideration of the great Expences they were at Day by Day, in maintaining and repairing the Gates, Pavements, &c. And therefore it is humbly conceived, the Inhabitants of *Glouceſter* ought not, by any means, to be charged with any Expence towards the Paving the ſaid Streets, as they are ſubject to many Tolls and Payments to the Corporation, which were given to them by their ſaid Charter, and therefore do in Fact, by ſuch Tolls and Payments, contribute to the Charge of Paving, when the Corporation thinks proper to perform the ſame.

BECAUSE, for the Reaſons aforeſaid, we humbly conceive, the opulent County of *Glouceſter* cannot want the Aid of this Honourable Houſe to enable them to rebuild *Maiſmore* Bridge; and that at all Events, the Inhabitants of *Maiſmore* ought to be exempt from Tolls, if they are compellable to demiſe the ſaid Piece of Meadow Ground.

THAT the Mayor and Burgeſſes of the City of *Glouceſter* have Eſtates and Tolls more than ſufficient to keep the *Weſtgate* Bridge and *Over*'s Cauſeway in thorough good Repair, were the annual Profits thereof applied for the Purpoſes they were originally granted, and alſo for Paving the Streets; and therefore it is humbly conceived, there cannot be the leaſt Pretence for laying any further Burden on the Public, or Tolls of the ſaid Turnpikes, or on the Inhabitants of the City of *Glouceſter*, for the Exoneration of the Corporation of *Glouceſter*, which ſeems to be the whole Scope and Drift of the preſent Application; and therefore humbly conceive, that every Member of this Honourable Houſe will expreſs his Abhorrence of ſuch an Attempt, by giving his Voice for throwing the Bill out of the Houſe.

REASONS

Why the BILL, now depending, for building a Bridge over the *Severn*, at *Maiſmore*, and repairing and making commodious *Over*'s Cauſeway, ſhould not PASS INTO A LAW.